



This is a biographical work.

Copyright 2021 © by Larry W Jones

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or used in any manner without written permission of the copyright owner except for the use of quotations in a book review.

First edition - 2021

Book design by Larry W Jones

Published by lulu.com

ISBN – 978-1-7947-0603-3

CONTENTS:

Pg 5 The Early Years – Cherokee Connection

Pg 8 War of 1812 and aftermath

Pg 11 Early political career

Pg 16 Political exile and controversy

Pg 19 Texas Revolution

Pg 24 The Republic Of Texas

Pg 27 Mexican-American War

Pg 30 Third Marriage and Legacy

SAM HOUSTON TENNESSEE TO TEXAS

THE EARLY YEARS – CHEROKEE CONNECTION

Sam Houston was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on March 2, 1793, to Samuel Houston and Elizabeth Paxton, both descended from Irish and Scottish immigrants, settling in the colonies of America in the 1730s. By 1793, his father owned a large farm, worked by slaves, and served as a colonel in the Virginia militia.

Sam Houston's uncle was a Presbyterian minister and an elected member of the "lost" *State of Franklin* then in the western frontier of North Carolina. Rev. Houston returned to Rockbridge County, Virginia after the assembled State of Franklin convention rejected his constitutional proposal.

(Note) The State of Franklin (also the Free Republic of Franklin or the State of Frankland was an unrecognized



proposed state located in what is today East Tennessee. It was created in 1784 from part of the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains that had been offered by North Carolina as a cession to Congress to help pay off debts related to the American War for Independence. It was founded with the intent of becoming the 14th state of the new United States.

Sam Houston had five brothers and three sisters as well as dozens of cousins who lived in the surrounding area. He was not close with his siblings or his parents, and he rarely spoke of them in his later life. But he did take an interest in his father's library, reading works by classical authors like Virgil as well as more recent works by authors such as Jedidiah Morse, a geographer whose textbooks became a staple for students in the United States. He was the father of the telegraphy pioneer and painter Samuel Morse, and his textbooks earned him the title of "father of American geography."

Houston's father was not a good manager and got into debt in part because of his militia service. He planned to sell the farm and move west to Tennessee, where land was less expensive, but he died in 1806.

However, Houston's mother followed through on those plans and settled the family near Maryville, Tennessee. At that time, Tennessee was on the American frontier, and even larger towns like Nashville were on watch against Native American raids.

Houston disliked farming and working in the family store, and at the age of 16, he left his family to live with a Cherokee tribe led by Ahuludegi (also spelled Oolooteka and known as John Jolly). Houston formed a close relationship with Ahuludegi and learned the Cherokee language, becoming known as Kolana or "The Raven". His involvement with the Cherokees continued years later when they were forcibly removed by President Andrew Jackson.

He left the tribe to return to Maryville in 1812, and he was hired at age 19 for a term as the schoolmaster of a one-room schoolhouse.



(Note) John Jolly was born into a mixed-race family in Tennessee. He had a successful trading post on Hiwassee Island in eastern Tennessee. He was also a wealthy planter. He dressed in buckskin hunting shirts, leggings and moccasins". He was a friendly and low-key person who was dedicated to providing the opportunities for the Cherokee people to thrive, including the use of technology and education. Jolly did not speak English, but likely understood it as well as another tribal language and French. He led the plantation group of Cherokee beginning in Tennessee after his brother, Tahlonteskee, departed for 'the west' in 1809. His brother moved after the United State's acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

John Jolly's brother, Tahlonteskee was a Cherokee headman of Cayoka town, on Hiawassee Island Tennessee. Following the decision he and Chief Doublehead made to sign over large parcels of traditional Cherokee hunting grounds to the United States in 1805, they found themselves considered by many Cherokee to be traitors.



After Doublehead was assassinated in 1807 for his part in the land transfer, Tahlonteskee emigrated into the west in 1809, one of the first of the "Old Settlers" of the new Cherokee Nation then being established in the Arkansaw Territory. He was the son of Tahlonteskee "Aaron Price" Bloody Fellow and Wurteh Betsy Watts, who was the mother of Chief John Jolly Due, Chief Robert "the Bench" Benge, and Sequoyah George Gist. Tahlonteskee became the third Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation -West in 1817 (succeeding Takatoka), and served until his death in 1819, when he in turn was succeeded by his brother, John Jolly.

WAR OF 1812 AND AFTERMATH

In 1812, Houston enlisted in the United States Army, which then was engaged in the War of 1812 against Britain and Britain's Native American Indian allies. He quickly impressed the commander of the 39th Infantry Regiment, Thomas Hart Benton, and by the end of 1813, he had risen to the rank of third lieutenant. In early 1814, the 39th Infantry Regiment became a part of the force commanded by General Andrew Jackson, who was charged with putting an end to raids by a faction of the Muscogee (or "Creek") tribe in the Old Southwest. Houston was badly wounded in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the decisive battle in the Creek War.

Although army doctors expected him to die of his wounds, Houston survived and convalesced in Maryville and other locations. While many other officers lost their positions after the end of the War of 1812 due to military cutbacks, Houston retained his commission with the help of Congressman John Rhea. During that time he was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant.

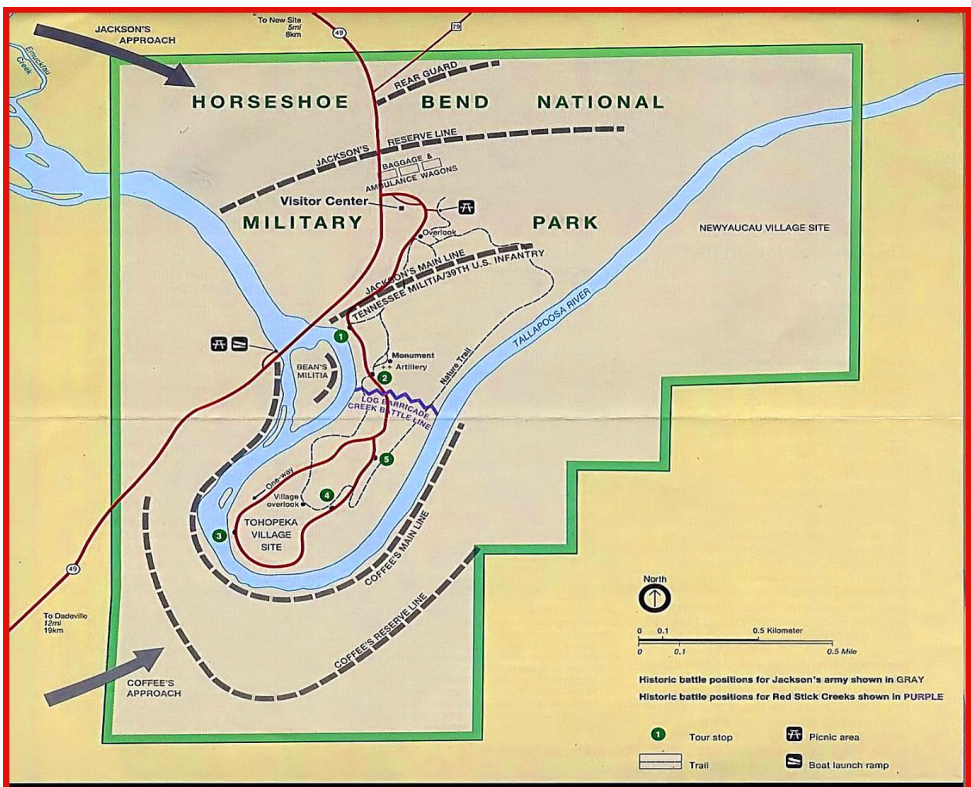
(Note) The Battle of Horseshoe Bend, fought on March 27, 1814 effectively ended Creek resistance to American advances into the southeast, opening up the Mississippi Territory for pioneer settlement. The Lower Creeks supported U. S. involvement but the Upper Creeks despised it, leading to a civil war between the two sections. The U. S. wanted to end the Creek civil war and end the Upper Creek resistance to U. S. involvement.

On the night of March 26, 1814, Major General Andrew Jackson and a contingent of 3,300 regulars, militiamen, Cherokees and Lower Creek camped six miles north of Horseshoe Bend. The Red Sticks, under direction of Chief Menawa, had fortified their village, Tehopeka, located on the peninsula created by the bend. The next day, he ordered the 39th U.S. Infantry, his most elite unit, to initiate a bayonet charge. Colonel John Williams led the assault accompanied by a young Sam Houston, the future patriarch of Texas.

As soon as the 39th scaled the fortification the violence turned from a battle into a slaughter. Women and children were not exempt from the carnage and more than 200 fleeing Red Stick warriors were killed while swimming across the Tallapoosa to safety.

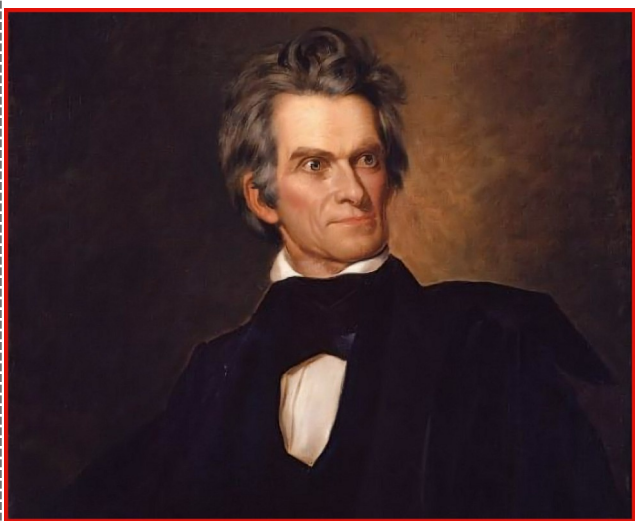
The battle of Horseshoe Bend was a disaster for the Red Sticks, with more than 800 of their 1,000 warriors killed in the fray. Even more significant, the Upper Creek nation had lost its last substantial fighting force. Chief Menawa was wounded seven times during the battle but miraculously escaped after playing dead until nightfall, crawling into a canoe and floating away on the Tallapoosa.

Following the defeat at Horseshoe Bend, the remaining warriors signed the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which ended hostilities and forced the Upper Creeks to cede over 20 million acres to the United States government, virtually half of what is today Alabama. The Creek would never be able to regain their tribal autonomy and in 1830 with the signing of the "Indian Removal Act" by President Andrew Jackson, the remaining Creeks were forced onto reservations in Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears."



In early 1817, Sam Houston was assigned to a clerical position in Nashville, serving under the adjutant general for the army's Southern Division. Later in the year, Jackson appointed Houston as a sub-agent to handle the removal of Cherokee from East Tennessee. In February 1818, he received a strong reprimand from Secretary of War John C. Calhoun after he wore Native American dress to a meeting between Calhoun and Cherokee leaders, beginning an enmity that lasted until Calhoun's death in 1850.

Angry over the incident with Calhoun and an investigation into his activities, Houston resigned from the army in 1818. He continued to act as a government liaison with the Cherokee, and in 1818, he helped some of the Cherokee resettle in Arkansas Territory.



(Note) John Caldwell Calhoun (March 18, 1782 – March 31, 1850) was an American statesman and political theorist from South Carolina who held many important positions including being the seventh vice president of the United States from 1825 to 1832, while adamantly defending slavery and protecting

the interests of the white South. He began his political career as a nationalist, modernizer, and proponent of a strong national government and protective tariffs.

In the late 1820s, his views changed radically, and he became a leading proponent of states' rights, limited government, nullification, and opposition to high tariffs. He saw Northern acceptance of those policies as a condition of the South remaining in the Union. His beliefs and warnings heavily influenced the South's secession from the Union in 1860–1861.

EARLY POLITICAL CAREER

After leaving government service, Sam Houston began an apprenticeship with Judge James Trimble in Nashville. He quickly won admission to the state bar and opened a legal practice in Lebanon, Tennessee. With the aid of Governor Joseph McMinn, Houston won election as the district attorney for Nashville in 1819. He was also appointed as a major general of the Tennessee militia. Like his mentors, Houston was a member of the Democratic-Republican Party, which dominated state and national politics in the decade following the War of 1812.

Tennessee gained three seats in the United States House of Representatives after the 1820 United States Census, and, with the support of Jackson and McMinn, Houston ran unopposed in the 1823 election for Tennessee's 9th congressional district. In his first major speech in Congress, Houston advocated for the recognition of Greece, which was fighting a war of independence against the Ottoman Empire.

(Note) The Greek War of Independence, also known as the Greek Revolution of 1821, was a successful war of independence by Greek revolutionaries against the Ottoman Empire between 1821 and 1829. The Greeks were later assisted by the British Empire, France, and Russia, while the Ottomans were aided by their North African vassals, particularly Egypt. The war led to the formation of modern Greece. The revolution is celebrated by Greeks around the world as independence day on March 25th.

Houston strongly supported Andrew Jackson's candidacy in the 1824 presidential election, which saw four major candidates, all from the Democratic-Republican Party, run for president. As no candidate won a majority of the vote, the House of Representatives held a contingent election, which was won by John Quincy Adams. Supporters of Jackson eventually coalesced into the Democratic Party, and those who favored Adams became known as National Republicans. With Jackson's backing, Houston won election as governor of Tennessee in 1827. Governor Houston advocated the construction of internal improvements such as canals, and sought to lower the price of land for homesteaders living on public domain. He also aided Jackson's successful campaign in the 1828 presidential election.

In 1829, at age forty-one, former Major General and now Governor Sam Houston stood poised for a national career, as many saw him as the successor to his mentor, President Jackson. But his personal demons worked against his ambition – he was legendary for his drinking, his melodrama, and his renegade spirit.



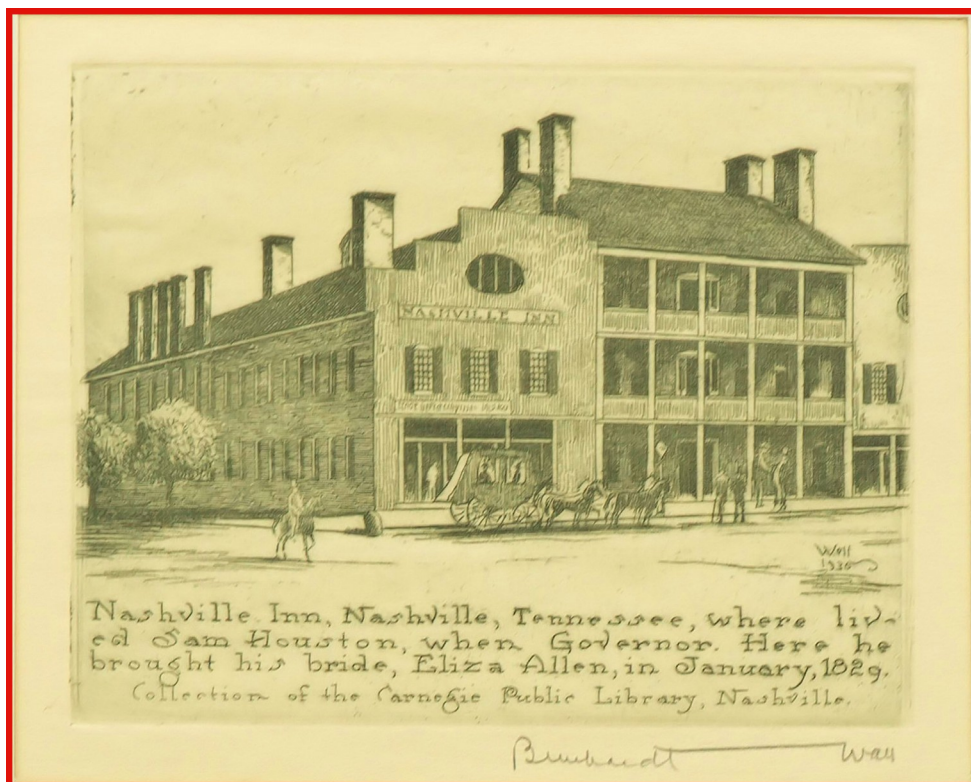
Perhaps to overcome his reputation, perhaps for love, he courted young Eliza Allen, from a wealthy and politically connected Middle Tennessee family, whose father was Jackson's old friend. Sam had known Eliza since she was about 13, when he first served in the U.S. Congress with her uncle Robert Allen.

The course of true love never did run smooth for Sam. "I have as usual had 'a small blow up.' What the devil is the matter with the gals I cant say but there has been hell to pay and no pitch hot!," Sam wrote to John Marable on December 8, 1828, a few days after Eliza's birthday.

On January 22, 1829, Sam married the 19 year old Eliza Allen at her home near Gallatin, with the

Reverend William Hume, the Scottish minister of First Presbyterian Church in Nashville and a friend of Jackson, performing the service.

The Houstons settled into the Nashville Inn, on the public square. The state government at the time met in the Davidson County Courthouse, and Sam spent his days at the capitol and his evenings in entertaining or campaigning. One day he returned to their rooms earlier than expected – Eliza sat "at a table weeping and reading old love letters..." Some say she confessed to Sam that she had been in love with a young but terminally ill with consumption, attorney William Tyree, but she married Sam to please her parents.



Sam's friend Frank Chambers reported, "During the next week or two Governor Houston looked years older. I saw that the beautiful young wife would be but dead sea fruit to him... I saw that his heart was broken." Dead sea fruit was notorious for dissolving into ash when picked.

On April 9, Sam wrote to Eliza's father about "the most unpleasant and unhappy circumstance" that had "taken place in the family, and one that was entirely unnecessary at this time..." Sam attested he "was satisfied & believed her virtuous... That I have & do love Eliza none can doubt. — that she is the only earthly object dear to me God will witness." Houston continued, "She was cold to me, and I thought did not love me. She owns that was one cause of my unhappiness. You can judge how unhappy I was to think I was united to a woman who did not love me." Houston thought they could now be happy, and "you may rest assured that nothing on my part shall be wanting to restore it. Let me know what is to be done."

But apparently, much was wanting on Eliza's part where happiness was concerned. Sam left for an election debate at Cockrill Springs and Eliza headed home. Martha Martin "was surprised one evening to find Mrs. Houston at my front door, for she had come to spend the night with us on her return to her home in Gallatin... she seemed somewhat depressed, and by way of explanation said that she and General Houston had agreed to separate."

On April 11, 1829, Sam Houston and his bride of eleven weeks, Eliza Allen, abruptly ended their marriage. The honeymoon had soured within two days of the wedding. Eliza watched her husband in a snowfall fight with the daughters of her host, Martha Phillips Martin, at Locust Grove on the Gallatin Pike. Martha suggested, "You had better go out and help him." Eliza replied seriously, "I wish they would kill him." Martha looked at her, astonished.

She repeated, "Yes, I wish from the bottom of my heart that they would kill him." Neither would speak publicly of the cause for the rest of their lives. Eliza returned to her parents' home in Sumner County. Sam fled to Arkansas territory to live among the Cherokee, after resigning as governor of Tennessee.

The scandal of the Houstons' separation spread like wildfire – Charles Love reported to Andrew Jackson that Sam's "effigy was burned in Gallatin on Saturday night last," April 11. He explained, "Our friend Houston has separated from his wife; and will resign tomorrow [April 16] and leave the state immediately for the Arkansas Territory to reside among the Indians. There is a hundred reports about the cause of separation; he gave her Father a certificate that she was virtuous. I lament his unfortunate situation, his hopes for happiness in this world are blasted forever."

A week later, on April 23, Sam fled from Nashville. Reverend Hume wrote John Coltart the next day, "I am sorry for him and more sorry for the young lady he has left. I know nothing that can be relied on as true... Oh, what a fall for a major general, a member of congress, and a Governor." Sam retreated to the home of his Cherokee friend Oolooteka, also known as John Jolly, in Arkansas Territory.

Meanwhile, Eliza lived with her family, "in seclusion for a year or two – a picture of perfect woe...", according to her relative, "M.B.H." "She never uttered a harsh or reproachful word of the General – seemed only

to pity him.” Eliza’s mother Laetitia Saunders Allen died when giving birth in November 1832 and her father John died in an accident the next April. Orphaned and the family estate sold, Eliza moved to Gallatin with her young siblings, where Mrs. E. L. Crockett claimed Eliza was “deeply respected by all” but “had only a few intimate friends.” Eliza never pursued a divorce, although it would have been allowed under Tennessee law to a deserted wife. But Sam first tried for a divorce in 1833 in the Mexican State of Coahuilla and Texas – the grounds were that “a separation took place between your said petitioner and his said wife and that they have never since that time, nor can they ever, meet again.”

Sam was more successful when he became president of the new Republic of Texas in October 1836. By April 1837, he achieved his divorce by asking for a hearing before a district court judge, an exception to the law that would have required an act of divorce by the Texas Congress. On April 8, his attorney W. G. Anderson wrote Sam that although the judge wanted to postpone the case “until some correspondence could be had with the absentee H [Eliza Houston]... I resisted successfully... and take great pleasure in saying that a decision was made and that hence you are absolved from the Marital obligations into which you have heretofore entered...”

Eliza Allen died on March 3, 1861, at the age of 51. She asked before her death that all her papers be burned, any images of her be destroyed, and her body be placed in an unmarked grave. In her quest for oblivion, she became instead a legend.



Sketch of Eliza Allen, ca. 1860

POLITICAL EXILE AND CONTROVERSY

Sam Houston returned to Ahuludegi's group of Cherokee in mid-1829.



Sam Houston in Cherokee Dress 1830

While living among the Cherokee, he married Tiana "Diana" Rogers, a mixed-blood Cherokee woman. Houston lived with her and the Cherokee from about 1830-1832. She left no descendants and is found in few contemporaneous records. Most of what is published about her is undocumented at best. Her name appears in English-language records as Diana or Dianna; no record of it written in Cherokee is known. It is said that the Cherokee called her Tiana because they had difficulty in pronouncing the letter "D".

Tiana "Diana" Rogers was born about 1800 in the East Cherokee Nation (East of the Mississippi River), the daughter of John Rogers, a white man, and Jennie Due, (mixed-blood daughter of trader Robert Due and his Cherokee wife.) Diana's father, John "Hell-Fire Jack" Rogers (1750-1846) was a Scottish born soldier, who, after fighting for the British during the American Revolution, opted to stay in the United States. He eventually became an ally of the Eastern Cherokee, living out the remainder of his life among them. (Some sources say that the nickname of "Hell-Fire Jack" came from his decadent lifestyle among the "uncivilized" Cherokee.) One of his daughters was Tiana. One of his sons, John Jr., was the last Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation West (West of the Mississippi River).

Before her marriage to Sam Houston, Tiana had married David Gentry about 1820. David Gentry was a blacksmith. He and Tiana moved West under the Treaty of 1817, (removal of Cherokee from North Carolina lands to West of the Mississippi River.) stating that he and his family lived on the Hiwassee River in what is now Tennessee. He and Tiana moved to the Cherokee community in Arkansas about 1820, where David died while fighting the Osage, about 1828.



Because of Houston's experience in government and his connections with President Jackson, several local Native American tribes asked Houston to mediate disputes and communicate their needs to the Jackson administration. In late 1829, the Cherokee accorded Houston tribal membership and dispatched him to Washington to negotiate several issues. (A preserved document in the Sam Houston Memorial Museum's collection, in Houston, from 1829 formally certified Houston as a citizen into the Cherokee Nation with all rights and privileges.) In anticipation of the removal of the remaining Cherokee east of the Mississippi River, Houston made an unsuccessful bid to supply rations to the Native Americans during their journey to the West of the Mississippi.

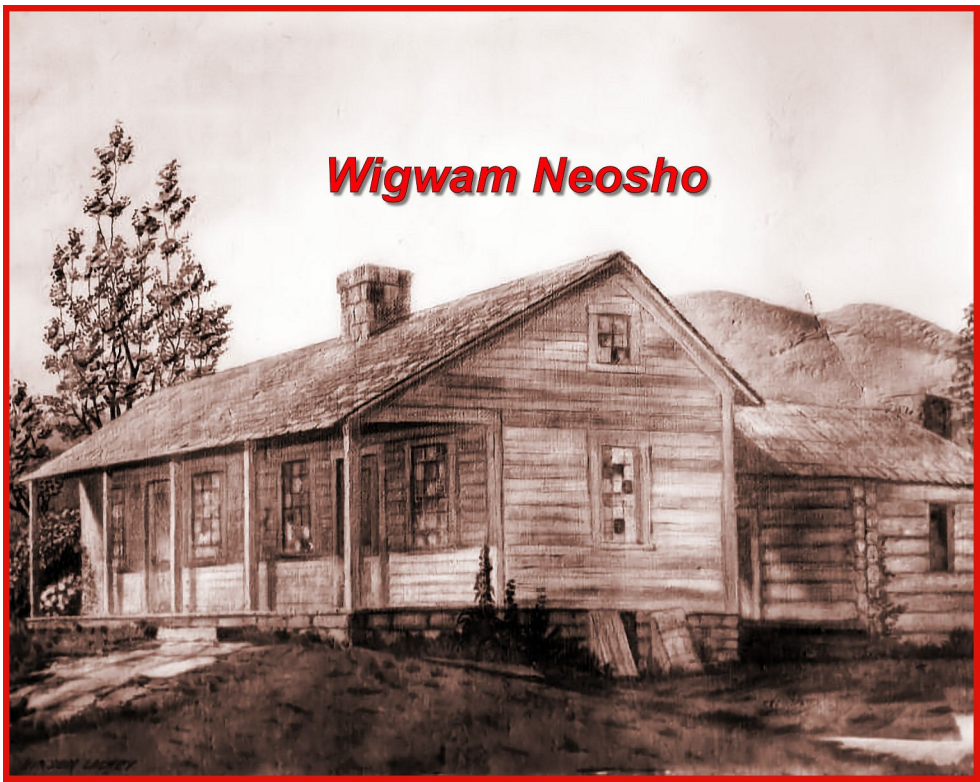
When Houston returned to Washington in 1832, Congressman William Stanbery alleged that Houston had placed a fraudulent bid in 1830 in collusion with the Jackson administration. On April 13, 1832, after Stanbery refused to answer Houston's letters regarding the incident, Houston beat Stanbery with a cane.

(Note) *During his time in Congress, Stanbery was controversial. In April 1832, he made accusations about Sam Houston, who was visiting Washington, D.C. at the time, on the floor of the House. He was attacking President Andrew Jackson through Houston, and accused him of being in league with John Von Fossen and Robert Rose. The three men bid on the supplying of rations to Indians who were being forcibly removed because of Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830. Stanbery, now carrying two pistols and a dirk, refused to answer Houston's letters. Infuriated, Houston later confronted him on Pennsylvania Avenue as he left Mrs. Queen's boardinghouse and beat Stanbery with a hickory cane. Stanbery did manage to draw one of his pistols, place it at Houston's chest and pull the trigger, but it misfired.*

Congress ordered Houston's arrest on April 17, who then hired Francis Scott Key as his attorney. He pleaded self-defense, but was found guilty in the high-profile trial. However, he was reprimanded lightly, thanks to high-placed friends, among them James K. Polk. Stanbery then filed charges against Houston in civil court. Judge William Cranch found Houston liable and fined him \$500, which he never paid, before returning to the Mexican province of Texas.

TEXAS REVOLUTION

Sam Houston and Tiana “Diana” Rogers Houston operated a trading post at Wigwam Neosho near Fort Gibson, in what is now Oklahoma. In mid-1832, Houston's friends William H. Wharton and John Austin Wharton wrote to convince him to travel to the Mexican possession of Texas, where unrest among the American settlers was growing. He accepted a position to negotiate with the Comanche tribe in Texas in 1832, and moved there while Diana decided to remain in Indian Territory.



The Mexican government had invited Americans to settle the sparsely populated region of Texas, but many of the settlers, including the Whartons, disliked Mexican rule. Houston crossed into Texas in December 1832, and shortly thereafter, he was granted land in Texas. Houston was elected to represent Nacogdoches, Texas at the Convention of 1833, which was called to petition Mexico for statehood.

At the time, Texas was part of the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, which included territory North and South of the Rio Grande River.

Houston strongly supported statehood, and he chaired a committee that drew a proposed state constitution. After the convention, Texan leader Stephen F. Austin petitioned the Mexican government for statehood, but he was unable to come to an agreement with President Valentín Gómez Farías. In 1834, Antonio López de Santa Anna assumed the presidency, took on new powers, and arrested Austin while Austin was in Mexico City. In October 1835, the Texas Revolution broke out



with the Battle of Gonzales, a skirmish between Texan forces and the Mexican Army. Shortly after the battle, Houston was elected to the Consultation, a congregation of Texas leaders.

Along with Austin and others, Houston helped organize the Consultation into a provisional government for Texas. In November, Houston joined with most other delegates in voting for a measure that demanded Texas statehood and the restoration of the 1824 Constitution of Mexico. The Consultation appointed Houston as a major general and the highest-ranking officer of the Texian Army, though the appointment did not give him effective control of the militia units that constituted the Texian Army.

Houston helped organize the Convention of 1836, where the Republic of Texas declared independence from Mexico, and appointed him as Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army. Shortly after the declaration, the convention received a plea for assistance from William B. Travis, who commanded Texan forces under siege by Santa Anna at the Alamo.



Constitutional Convention of 1836

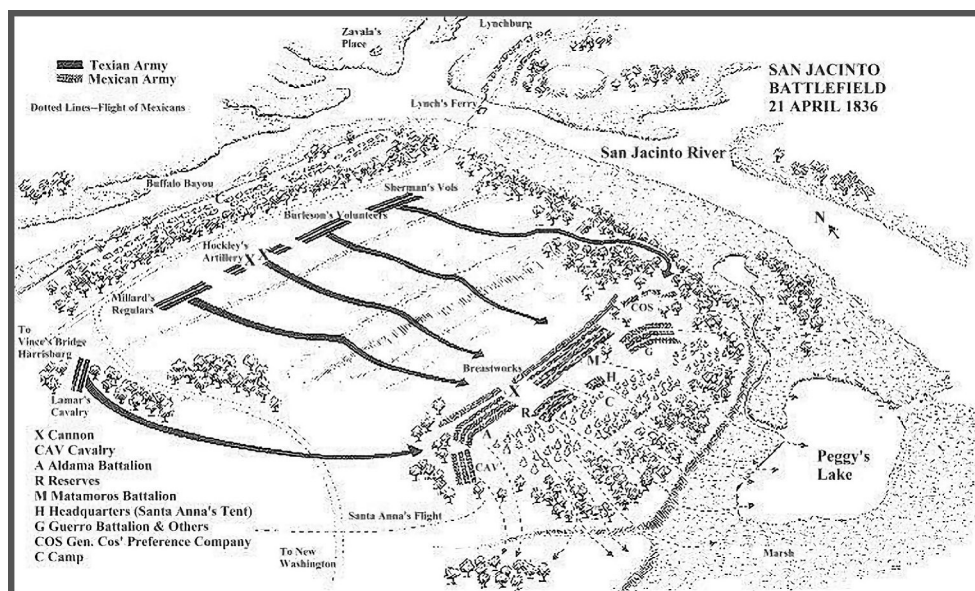
- **March 1, 1836**
- 54 Delegates
- Washington-on-the-Brazos
- Declaration of Independence written by George Childress
- Wrote the Constitution of 1836
- Created an interim government

The convention confirmed Houston's command of the Texian Army and dispatched him to lead a relief of Travis's force, but the Alamo fell, on March 6, 1836, before Houston could organize his forces at Gonzales, Texas. Seeking to intimidate Texan forces into surrender, the Mexican army killed every defender at the Alamo; news of the defeat outraged many Texans and caused desertions in Houston's ranks. Commanding a force of about 350 men that numerically was inferior to that of Santa Anna, Houston retreated east across the Colorado River.

Though the provisional government, as well as many of his own subordinates, urged him to attack the Mexican army, Houston continued the retreat east, informing his soldiers that they constituted "the only army in Texas now present ... There are but a few of us, and if we are beaten, the fate of Texas is sealed." Santa Anna divided his forces and finally caught up to Houston in mid-April 1836. Santa Anna's force of about 1,350 soldiers trapped Houston's force of 783 men in a marsh; rather than pressing the attack, Santa Anna ordered his soldiers to make camp. On April 21, Houston ordered an attack on the Mexican army, beginning the Battle of San Jacinto.



The Texans quickly routed Santa Anna's force, though Houston's horse was shot out under him and his ankle was shattered by a stray bullet. In the aftermath of the Battle of San Jacinto, a detachment of Texans captured Santa Anna. Santa Anna was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco, granting Texas its independence. Houston stayed briefly for negotiations, then returned to the United States for treatment of his ankle wound.





San Jacinto Monument

567 ft (172 meters)

THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

Victory in the Battle of San Jacinto made Sam Houston a hero to many Texans, and he won the 1836 Texas presidential election, defeating Stephen F. Austin, another former governor who would also receive the honor of having the city of Austin named after him, and Henry Smith. Houston took office on October 22, 1836 after interim president David G. Burnet resigned. During the presidential election, the voters of Texas overwhelmingly indicated their desire for Texas to be annexed by the United States. Houston, meanwhile, faced the challenge of assembling a new government, putting the country's finances in order, and handling relations with Mexico. He selected Thomas Jefferson Rusk as secretary of war, Smith as secretary of the treasury, Samuel Rhoads Fisher as secretary of the navy, James Collinworth as attorney general, and Austin as secretary of state.

Houston sought normalized relations with Mexico, and despite some resistance from the legislature, arranged the release of Santa Anna. Concerned about upsetting the balance between slave states and free states, U.S. President Andrew Jackson refused to push for the annexation of Texas, but in his last official act in office he granted Texas diplomatic recognition. With the United States unwilling to annex Texas, Houston began courting British support; as part of this effort, he urged the end of the importation of slaves into Texas. In early 1837, the government moved to a new capital, the city of Houston, named for the country's first president. In 1838, Houston frequently clashed with Congress over issues such as a treaty with the Cherokee and a land-office act and was forced to put down the Córdova Rebellion, a plot to allow Mexico to reclaim Texas with aid from the Kickapoo Indians.

The Texas constitution barred presidents from seeking a second term, so Houston did not stand for re-election in the 1838 election and left office in late 1838. He was succeeded by Mirabeau B. Lamar, who, along with Burnet, led a faction of Texas politicians opposed to Houston. The Lamar administration removed many of Houston's appointees, launched a war against the Cherokee, and established a new capital at Austin, Texas. Meanwhile, Houston opened a legal practice and co-founded a land company with the intent of developing the town of Sabine City. In 1839, he was elected to represent San Augustine County in the Texas House of Representatives.

(Note) *The Córdoba Rebellion, in 1838, was an uprising instigated in and around Nacogdoches, Texas. Beginning as early as late 1835, Vicente Córdoba had covertly started to plan and organize local resistance, anticipating Texas would declare independence from Mexico. In the late summer of 1838, word arrived from several sources that Mexico was seeking an arrangement with the Cherokee which would give them title to their land in exchange for assistance in joining a war of extermination against the Texans.*

On March 29, 1839, a company of 80 men commanded by General Edward Burleson defeated Vicente Córdoba and the rebels during a fight near Seguin, Texas, at "Battleground Prairie." A few weeks later, a Mexican agent was killed near the Red River. A diary and papers were found on his body which indicated that the Government of Mexico was working to incite the Cherokee and other tribes to rebel against Texas in exchange for recognition of tribal lands. Additional documents were found after a battle on the North San Gabriel River on May 17 and on May 18, 1839, after a party of Texas Rangers defeated a group of Mexicans and Cherokee. These documents included letters from Mexican officials addressed to Córdoba and The Bowl, a Cherokee chief.

Despite the involvement of some Cherokee and the discovery of documents intended for Chief Bowl, Houston believed the chief's denials and refused to order them arrested. In his several letters of reassurance to The Bowl during the unrest, Houston again promised them title to their land on the Neches River. Warriors believing their lands to be violated by the legal settlers then perpetrated the October 1838 what was called the Killough massacre, killing eighteen people.

Texas' second president, Mirabeau B. Lamar, had served under Georgia's Governor George M. Troup during the expropriation of Creek Indian lands for the benefit of white settlers in that state. Never sympathetic toward Indians in general and predisposed to the removal of the Cherokee, Lamar's demands that the Cherokee leave Texas resulted in the Cherokee War in 1839 and the violent expulsion – commonly referred to as "removal" – of the Cherokee to Indian Territory on Oklahoma.

Vicente Cordova returned to Texas with General Adrián Woll's 1842 invasion and occupation of San Antonio. He was killed in the subsequent Battle of Salado Creek, September 18, 1842.

Houston defeated Burnet in the 1841 Texas presidential election, winning a large majority of the vote. He appointed Anson Jones as secretary of state, Asa Brigham as secretary of the treasury, George Washington Hockley as secretary of war, and George Whitfield Terrell as attorney general. At one point, Houston commandeered an American brig used to transport Texas soldiers because the government could not afford to pay the brig's captain.

(Note) *The Texas Navy was a branch of the Texas Military during the Republic of Texas. The Texas Navy and Texas Army were merged with the United States Armed Forces on February 19, 1846 after the Republic of Texas became the 28th state of the United States.*

The Santa Fe Expedition and other initiatives pursued by Lamar had stirred tensions with Mexico, and rumors frequently raised fears that Santa Anna would launch an invasion of Texas. Houston continued to curry favor with Britain and France, partly in the hope that British and French influence in Texas would encourage the United States to annex Texas. The Tyler administration made the annexation of Texas its chief foreign policy priority, and in April 1844, Texas and the United States signed an annexation treaty. Annexation did not have sufficient support in Congress, and the United States Senate rejected the treaty in June.

Henry Clay and Martin Van Buren, the respective front-runners for the Whig and Democratic nominations in the 1844 presidential election, both opposed the annexation of Texas. However, Van Buren's opposition to annexation damaged his candidacy, and he was defeated by James K. Polk, an acolyte of Jackson and an old friend of Houston, at the 1844 Democratic National Convention.

Polk defeated Clay in the general election, giving backers of annexation an electoral mandate. Meanwhile, Houston's term ended in December 1844, and he was succeeded by Anson Jones, his secretary of state. In the waning days of his own presidency, Tyler used Polk's victory to convince Congress to approve of the annexation of Texas.

Seeking Texas's immediate acceptance of annexation, Tyler made Texas a generous offer that allowed the state to retain control of its public lands, though it would be required to keep its public debt. A Texas convention approved of the offer of annexation in July 1845, and Texas officially became the 28th U.S. state on December 29, 1845.

MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

In February 1846, the Texas legislature elected Houston and Thomas Jefferson Rusk as Texas's two inaugural U.S. senators. Houston chose to align with the Democratic Party, which contained many of his old political allies, including President Polk. As a former president of Texas, Houston is the only former foreign head of state to have served in the U.S. Congress. He was the first person to serve as the governor of a state and then be elected to the U.S. Senate by another state.

Breaking with the Senate tradition that held that freshman senators were not to address the Senate, Houston strongly advocated in early 1846 for the annexation of Oregon Country. In the Oregon Treaty, reached later in 1846, Britain and the United States agreed to split Oregon Country.

(Note) *The Oregon Treaty was a treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States that was signed on June 15, 1846, in Washington, D.C. The treaty brought an end to the Oregon boundary dispute by settling competing American and British claims to the Oregon Country; the area had been jointly occupied by both Britain and the U.S. since the Treaty of 1818.*



Meanwhile, Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to lead a U.S. army to the Rio Grande, which had been set as the Texas-Mexico border under the Treaty of Velasco; Mexico claimed the Nueces River constituted the true border. After a skirmish between Taylor's unit and the Mexican army, the Mexican–American War broke out in April 1846. Houston initially supported Polk's prosecution of the war, but differences between the two men emerged in 1847. After two years of fighting, the United States defeated Mexico and, through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, acquired the Mexican Cession. Mexico also agreed to recognize the Rio Grande as the border between Mexico and Texas.

(Note) *The Mexican-American War (1846-1848) marked the first U.S. armed conflict chiefly fought on foreign soil. It pitted a politically divided and militarily unprepared Mexico against the expansionist-minded administration of U.S. President James K. Polk, who believed the United States had a “manifest destiny” to spread across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. A border skirmish along the Rio Grande started off the fighting and was followed by a series of U.S. victories. When the dust cleared, Mexico had lost about one-third of its territory, including nearly all of present-day California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico.*



After the war, disputes over the extension of slavery into the territories raised sectional tensions. Unlike most of his Southern colleagues, Houston voted for the Oregon Bill of 1848, which organized Oregon Territory as a free territory. Defending his vote to create a territory that excluded slavery, Houston stated "I would be the last man to wish to do anything injurious to the South, but I do not think that on all occasions we are justified in agitating [slavery]." He criticized both Northern abolitionists and Democratic followers of Calhoun as extremists who sought to undermine the union. He supported the Compromise of 1850, a sectional compromise on slavery on the territories. Under the compromise, California was admitted as a free state, the slave trade was prohibited in the District of Columbia, a more stringent fugitive slave law was passed, and Utah Territory and New Mexico Territory were established.

(Note) The Compromise of 1850 was a package of five separate bills passed by the United States Congress in September 1850 that defused a political confrontation between slave and free states on the status of territories acquired in the



Mexican–American War. It also set Texas's western and northern borders and included provisions addressing fugitive slaves and the slave trade. The compromise was brokered by Whig senator Henry Clay and Democratic senator Stephen A. Douglas, with the support of President Millard Fillmore.

Texas gave up some of its claims on New Mexico, but it retained El Paso, Texas, and the United States assumed Texas's large public debt. Houston sought the Democratic nomination in the 1852 presidential election, but he was unable to consolidate support outside of his home state. The 1852 Democratic National Convention ultimately nominated Franklin Pierce, a compromise nominee, who went on to win the election.

THIRD MARRIAGE AND LEGACY

In 1833, Houston was baptized into the Catholic faith in order to qualify under the existing Mexican law for property ownership in Coahuila y Tejas. The sacrament was held in the living room of the Adolphus Sterne House in Nacogdoches, Texas.

On May 9, 1840, Houston, aged 47, married for a third time. His bride was 21-year-old Margaret Moffette Lea of Marion, Alabama, the daughter of planters. They had eight children. Margaret acted as a tempering influence on her much older husband and convinced him to stop drinking. Although the Houstons had numerous houses, they kept only one continuously: Cedar Point (1840–1863) on Trinity Bay.

By 1854, Margaret had spent 14 years trying to convert Houston to the Baptist church. With the assistance of George Washington Baines, she convinced Houston to convert, and he agreed to adult baptism. Spectators from neighboring communities came to Independence, Texas, to witness the event. On November 19, 1854, Houston was baptized by Rev. Rufus C. Burleson, president of Baylor University, by immersion in Little Rocky Creek, two miles southeast of Independence.

After leaving office, Houston returned to his home in Galveston. He later settled in Huntsville, Texas, where he lived in a structure known as the Steamboat House. In the midst of the Civil War, Houston was shunned by many Texas leaders, though he continued to correspond with Confederate officer Ashbel Smith and Texas governor Francis Lubbock. His son, Sam Houston, Jr., served in the Confederate army during the Civil War, but returned home after being wounded at the Battle of Shiloh. Houston's health suffered a precipitous decline in April 1863, and Kolana "The Raven" died on July 26, 1863, at 70 years of age.

Legacy – Houston Texas was named in his honor. Sam Houston State University; Houston County, Minnesota; Houston County, Tennessee; Houston County, Texas. Sam Houston National Forest, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, Fort Sam Houston, USS Sam Houston. A sculpture in Houston's Hermann Park. A 67-foot-tall statue of Houston, by David Adickes, on I-45 in Huntsville, Texas. In 1960, he was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

About the Author

Larry W Jones is a songwriter, having penned over 7,700 song lyrics. Published in 22 volumes of island themed, country, cowboy, western and bluegrass songs. The entire assemblage is the world's largest collection of lyrics written by an individual songwriter.

As a wrangler on the "Great American Horse Drive", at age 68, he assisted in driving 800 half-wild horses 62 miles in two days, from Winter pasture grounds in far NW Colorado to the Big Gulch Ranch outside of Craig Colorado.

His book, "The Oldest Greenhorn", chronicles the adventures and perils in earning the "Gate-to-Gate" trophy belt buckle the hard way.



Other books published by Larry W Jones:

A Squirrel Named Julie and The Fox Ridge Fox
The Painting Of A Dream
The Boy With Green Thumbs and The Wild Tree Man
Red Cloud – Chief Of the Sioux
Spotted Tail – The Orphan Negotiator
Little Crow – The Fur Trapper's Patron
Chief Gall – The Strategist
Crazy Horse – The Vision Quest Warrior
Sitting Bull - The Powder River Power
Rain-In-The-Face – The Setting Sun Brave
Two Strike – The Lakota Club Fighter
Chief American Horse – The Oglala Councilor
Chief Dull Knife – The Sharp-Witted Cheyenne
Chief Joseph – Retreat From Grande Ronde
The Oregon Trail Orphans
Kids In Bloom Volume 1
Kids In Bloom Volume 2
Kids Animal Pals Volume 1
Kids Animal Pals Volume 2
Bird Kids Volume 1
Bird Kids Volume 2
Garden Kids Volume 1
Garden Kids Volume 2
Folklore Of Jackson Hole
Henny Penny Meets Chicken Little
Delightful Stories For Children
The 1825 Voyage Of HMS Blonde
Illustrated Stories For Young Children
Sea Sagas – Perilous Voyages
Songbirds And Their Stories
The Jungle Book – Mowgli's Brothers
The Jungle Book – Kaa's Hunting
The Jungle Book – Tiger! Tiger!
The Jungle Book – The White Seal
The Jungle Book – Rikki-Tikki-Tavi
The Jungle Book – Toomai of the Elephants
The Jungle Book – Her Majesty's Servants

Other books published by Larry W Jones:**The Oldest Greenhorn – Second Edition****Life On The Mississippi****Songs Of The Seas****Treasure Island****The Wind In The Willows****Alice In Wonderland****Peter Rabbit****The Secret Garden****Heidi****Cynthia Ann Parker – Comanche Bride****Black Beauty****The Call Of the Wild****Uncle Remus and Brer Rabbit****Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea****The Goodnight-Loving Trail – A Chuckwagon Saga****Ode To Toulee – From Gosling To Goose****China Clipper – Floatplanes Of Pan Am****Images Of Old England****Range Of A Cowboy****Clipper Ships – Emigrants Passage****Clipper Ships – Wool and Wealth****Clipper Ships – Iron Maidens****Clipper Ships – The Kiwi Connection****Chief War Eagle – Peacemaker Of The Sioux****Ohiyesa – From Sioux To Surgeon****Indian Ways Of Yore – Fables And Fact****Heritage Of An Indian Boy****Daniel Boone On the Cumberland Trail****Davy Crockett Of the Wild Frontier****Jim Bowie – Life Legacy Legend****All his publications are available on [Lulu.com](https://lulu.com)**